

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**DG 04-179**

**ORDER OF NOTICE**

On September 29, 2004, New Hampshire Gas Corporation (NHGC), a public utility providing propane air service to approximately 1,000 customers in Keene, New Hampshire, filed with the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) revisions to its tariff providing for its winter Cost of Gas (COG) rates for the period November 1, 2004 through April 30, 2005.

The proposed COG rate is \$1.1819 per therm, a \$0.1492 per therm increase over the weighted COG rate of \$1.0327 per therm for last winter. NHGC also proposed a \$1.2323 per therm rate for the Fixed Price Option Program.

The NHGC filing also requests approval to increase the rate case expense recovery surcharge from \$0.0161 per therm to \$0.0167 per therm, based on the remaining expenses to be recovered and projected sales.

NHGC also announced that it would be increasing delivery rates by 2.6% effective November 1, 2004, increasing annual revenues by \$50,593. Commission Order No. 24,102 (December 23, 2003) approved NHGC's petition for a rate increase of up to \$288,887 in annual revenues and permits NHGC to increase delivery rates up to the maximum amount in conjunction with its summer and winter COG proceedings through November 1, 2005. NHGC's initial rate increase, effective January 1, 2003, increased annual revenues by \$187,777 and a subsequent increase, effective November 1, 2003, increased annual revenues by an additional

\$25,297. The announced increase, combined with the preceding increases, results in additional revenues of \$263,667 over 2001 levels, still \$25,220 less than the approved increase.

As a result of the change in the delivery rate, and proposed changes in the COG rate and rate case expense surcharge, a typical residential heating customer's winter bill would be \$180, or 10.5 percent, greater than last winter's.

The filing raises, inter alia, issues related to the reasonableness of rates and charges pursuant to RSA 378 and more specifically: forecasting of sales, supplier prices and transportation prices, and reconciliation with prior period costs and revenues.

**Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby**

**ORDERED**, that a Hearing on NHGC's 2004/2005 winter COG be held before the Commission located at 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire on October 26, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin. Rules Puc 203.01, NHGC shall notify all persons desiring to be heard at this hearing by publishing a copy of this Order of Notice no later than October 6, 2004, in a newspaper with statewide circulation or of general circulation in those portions of the state in which operations are conducted, publication to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before October 26; and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that pursuant to N.H. Admin Rules Puc 203.02, any party seeking to intervene in the proceeding shall submit to the Commission an original and eight copies of a Petition to Intervene with copies sent to NHGC and the Office of the Consumer Advocate on or before October 21, 2004, such Petition stating the facts demonstrating how its rights, duties, privileges, immunities or other substantial interest may be affected by the proceeding, as required by N.H. Admin Rule Puc 203.02 and RSA 541-A:32,I(b); and it is

**FURTHER ORDERED**, that any party objecting to a Petition to Intervene make said Objection on or before October 26, 2004.

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this first day of October, 2004.

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Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director & Secretary

Individuals needing assistance or auxiliary communication aids due to sensory impairment or other disability, should contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, NHPUC, 21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10, Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429; 603-271-2431; TDD Access: Relay N.H. 1-800-735-2964. Notification of the need for assistance should be made one week prior to the scheduled event.